Changes in Haj Representation Act, 1959

2812. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Haj Committee have sought changes in the Haj Representation Act of 1959 so as to make it more representative;

(b) if so, details of the suggestions made by the Committee in this regard;

(c) whether Government have examined the suggestions; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) The Central Haj Committee as well as the All India Haj Conference attended by the representatives of the Central and State Haj Committees have recommended to Government that a new Haj legislation be enacted to replace the Haj Committee Act of 1959.

(b) The Committee has sought an early enactment of legislation to bring about a broad-based representation of all regions of the country in the Central Haj Committee.

(c) and (d) The Government have examined the suggestions, and legislative proposals to implement these suggestions are under active consideration.

Trade between India and Morocco

2813. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Moroccan Centre for Export Promotion have signed an agreement to promote trade and economic relations between the two countries;

(b) if so, the main details of the agreement; and

(c) to what extent trade and economic relations will be improved during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) and the Moroccan Centre for Export Promotion (MCEP) have signed an Agreement on 22nd April, 1996 in Rabat (Morocco) to promote trade and economic relations between the two countries.

(b) The agreement focuses on promoting direct contact between Moroccan and Indian business undertakings in various fields of economic activity which include exchange of trade information, visits of business delegation, participation in each others fairs and specialised exhibitions, utilisation of research materials and exchange of information about third market activities.

(c) Bilateral trade between India and Morocco increased from Rs. 904.68 crores during 1994-95 to Rs. 1089.34 crores during 1995-96. This upward trend is expected to grow further during 1996-97

"Bachpan Bachao Andolan" Allahabad

2814. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government have been drawn towards criticism made by several social organisations including "Bachpan Bachao Andolan" of Allahabad for not initiating any steps to eliminate child labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are committed to provide social justice to all people including children;

(d) whether Government propose to take some steps to implement its commitment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) In a news item which appeared in The Hindustan Times' dated 16th August, 1996, the Chairperson "Bachpan Bachao Andolan" is reported to have said that the Government has neither initiated any steps towards eradicating child labour nor shown any trace of political will to do so.

(c) to (e) Government has been consistently following a proactive child labour policy as per the various provisions in the constitution. The steps taken by Central Government for withdrawal and rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations include (a) ensuring compliance of the implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and the provisions concerning children in other labour laws. (b) sanctioning of 76 National Child Labour Projects to cover about 1.5 lakh children in the child labour endemic States and (c) sanctioning of funds for carrying out surveys in 123 districts and for awareness generation activities in 133 districts.

Periodical review on the performance of PSUs

2815. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether periodical review is being made by Government on the performances of different public sector units;

(b) if so, when was the last review made; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Review on performance of public sector enterprises is a continuous process. The concerned Administrative Ministries review their performance periodically. Also an annual report on the working of central public sector undertakings of the Government is presented in the Parliament every year titled "Public Enterprises Survey". The Public Enterprises Survey for 1994-95 was laid on the Table of the both Houses of Parliament on 19.7.1996.

Monitoring the rising prices of Essential Commodities

2816. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of essential commodities the prices of which are monitored by the Central Government in the country;

(b) whether prices of essential commodities have been increasing in the country during the last six months;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the effective measures Government proposes to control the prices of essential commodities in the country to protect the interest of the weaker sections of society?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The retail prices of 12 essential commodities namely wheat, rice, sugar, arhar, gram, groundnut oil, mustard oil, vanaspati, tea, potatoes, onions and salt at selected centres are being monitored by the Government on daily basis. During the period 9.3.96 to 10.8.96, varying increases have been observed in the wholesale price indices of these commodities. The increase in the prices of some commodities like pulses, edible